

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 INR-10 PRS-01 USSS-00 SY-10 OPR-02 OC-06 EUR-25

IO-15 AF-10 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /148 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5139

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 4379

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI OFFICIALS FEEL SAG MUST PARTICIPATE IN
WAR, EVEN IF ONLY SYMBOLICALLY.

REF: JIDDA 4356

SUMMARY: SAG OFFICIALS FEEL SAUDI ARABIA CANNOT AFFORD
NOT RPT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN WAR, AT LEAST SYMBOLICALLY.
SAG PREPARED TO ACCEPT SACRIFICES OF PROLONGED HOSTILITIES;
IS CRITICAL OF US POSITION IN UN. END SUMMARY.

A/DCM BIRD TOLD FOLLOWING BY BRITISH SOURCE WHO HAD
MET AT 1400 OCT 9 WITH BOTH ROYAL INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR KAMEL ADHAM
AND
KING'S SON, DEPMINPET SA'UD:

IN WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION BETWEEN WELL-BRIEFED
BRITISH SOURCE, AKMEL ADHAM AND PRINCE SA'UD 9 OCT
FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

1. NEITHER SAG NOR JORDAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO JOIN IN
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BATTLE BY EITHER SYRIA OR EGYPT.

2. NEVERTHELESS, SAG CANNOT AFFORD NOT RPT NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT AND THIS HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN FAIRLY AND SQUARELY TO SADAT. SAG IS CERTAIN HUSSEIN IS READY RPT READY TO PARTICIPATE BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO REQUEST FOR HIM TO DO SO. DOES THIS MEAN ACTIVE SAUDI PARTICIPATION, IF REQUESTED, IN ACTUAL HOSTILITIES? YES, ALTHOUGH IN VIEW OF LIMITED SAUDI MILITARY POTENTIAL, SYMBOLIC PRESENCE AND TOKEN GESTURES IMPORTANT TO SAG. SAG'S BRIGADE IN JORDAN READY TO FIGHT. RESOLUTION 242 IS FINISHED. ADHAM EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY FULBRIGHT'S MAY SPEECH.

3. THERE WILL BE NO CEASE FIRE, EVEN THOUGH SAUDIS ARE AWARE THAT THEY MAY LOSE EVERYTHING THEY HAVE BUILT UP OVER PAST TWO YEARS. SAUDIS WERE INDEED TAKEN UNAWARES BY SYRIA AND EGYPT'S INITIATIVE BUT THEY ENDORSE IT FULLY NOW. THEY ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT EGYPT, THERE ARE 600,000 TROOPS ACROSS THE CANAL TO PREVENT HER COLLAPSE AS A FUNCTIONING STATE, BUT THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT SYRIA CRACKING UP.

4. STRATEGICALLY, SAG SEES BATTLE AS ONE IN WHICH ISRAEL MAY WIN BATTLES BUT IS LIKELY TO LOSE THE INITIATIVE IN THE LONG RUN. QUESTION IS, WILL US RESUPPLY HER, PARTICULARLY WITH PHANTOMS?

5. AMERICA'S QUOTE STUNTS UNQUOTE IN UN ARE TERRIBLE. FRANCE HOWEVER RECOVERED HER POSITION WITH SAG (AFTER PRIME MINISTER MESSEMER'S QUOTED STATEMENT THAT THE TWO ARAB STATES MUST HAVE BEEN PLANNING THE BATTLE WHEN JOUBERT WAS QUOTED TODAY AS HAVING STATED THAT FRANCE DID NOT CONSIDER LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AS AN AGGRESSION.

6. SAG IS WORRIED ABOUT LATEST BOMBINGS BY ISRAEL OF PORT SAID AND DAMASCUS. WILL EGYPT AND SYRIA RETALIATE? (THIS BEFORE WORD OF SYRIAN MISSILES HAD BEEN REPORTED IN WIRELESS).

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7. ON ZBIL, BRITISH SOURCE QUERIED ABOUT SAQQAF STATEMENT IN UN THAT OIL WOULD BE USED AS A WEAPON. PRINCE SAUD SEEMED GENUINELY STARTLED AND UNAWARE OF IT. HE ASKED BRITISHER TWO QUESTIONS: WHAT WOULD EUROPE DO IF OIL WERE CUT OFF ONLY TO US? ANSWER GIVEN WAS THAT ONE DID NOT KNOW BUT EUROPE OWED MUCH TO AMERICA AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT LEAVE HERSELF NAKED IN THE FACE OF POSSIBLE AGGRESSIONS FROM COMMUNISTS. SHE NEEDED THE US. SECOND

QUESTION BY PRINCE WAS WOULD EUROPE SHARE HER OIL WITH US IN SUCH AN EVENT? AGAIN, THE ANSWER BY OUR BRITISH FRIEND WAS THAT HE DID NOT KNOW BUT THAT IT HAD HAPPENED BEFORE IN SUCH CRISES.

8. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATIONS, SA'UD SEEMED DEPRESSED AND SENSITIVE ABOUT GROWING WESTERN SENTIMENT AGAINST ARABS, NOTING THAT THEY ALWAYS PROTRAYED AS TURBANED, BLACK AND EVIL-LOOKING.

9. A/DCM REPORTS HEAD OF DIWAN AHMAD ABUDL WAHAB, RSOYAL COUNSELOR RASHAD PHARAON, PRINCE NAWAF AND THE EL FAHAD SENIOR PRINCES SEEM TO BE THE CLOSEST ADVISORS TO KING IN THIS PERIOD.
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